

# **THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST**

ISSUED BY THE  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

15 JANUARY 1964  
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. USSR

a. Pravda on Monday published data implying that there was an increase in 1963 over 1962 of only three percent in "national income"--the principal Soviet measurement of economic performance. This growth rate is the lowest since World War II.



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c. In another commentary, Moscow claimed that its 1963 agricultural output was 50 percent above the 1952 level. This claim is, in fact, an admission that 1963 was the worst year for agriculture since 1957.

d. It also means that total agricultural production in 1963 fell about nine percent below the 1962 level.

e. The Soviet press has displayed more than usual sensitivity in ridiculing the US estimates.

## 2. France-USSR

a. France is considering credit concessions to the USSR.

b. A Finance Ministry spokesman told an embassy officer that Paris is "giving much attention" to extending credits for more than five years to the USSR in preparation for Finance Minister Giscard d'Estaing's visit to Moscow late this month.

c. He argued somewhat disingenuously that if the British extend seven-year credits France may be forced to do the same.

d. We have also had hints of a change in French credit policy from Pompidou and other French officials.

## 3. Bolivia

a. Bolivia may be in for another period of instability following the convention of the ruling Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR) party, which opens Friday.

b. Ambassador Henderson has raised the possibility that Lechin may attempt an early overthrow of the government if he is denied the presidential or vice-presidential nomination.

(Cont'd)

c. Short of a coup attempt, there is still likely to be considerable unrest. An attempt by President Paz to restore his authority over the mining areas could also touch off disturbances.

d.   
some Bolivian Labor Confederation leaders who support Lechin are pressing for a street demonstration in support of Panama which would lead to attacks on the US Embassy and the destruction of American property.

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e. The Confederation has scheduled a demonstration for tomorrow to protest government policies, and these leaders may attempt to turn it into an anti-US demonstration.

#### 4. Yemen

a. Last week's reorganization of the republican regime is a step backward.

b. It strengthens Egyptian control and narrows the base of government; important tribal leaders were not given a role in government affairs.

(Cont'd)

c. The three top Egyptian military officers in Yemen are included on the National Security Council, which is charged with controlling military and security affairs.

d. Their presence on the council will increase Yemeni fears of being ruled as an Egyptian colony.

e. Meanwhile, Saudi Prince Faysal's decision not to attend Nasir's Arab Conference dashes hopes that the meeting would provide an opportunity for a frank discussion between the two leaders on a settlement in Yemen.

5. Cuba-USSR

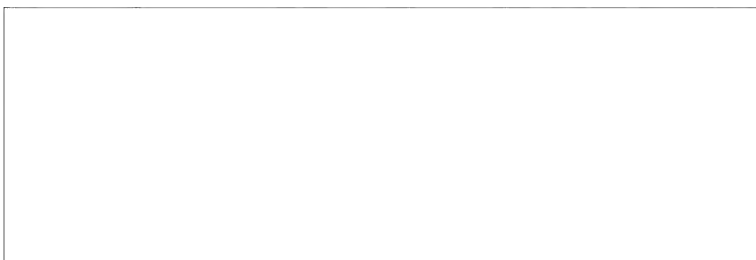
a. Castro's quick trip to Moscow is disturbing. Ambassador Kohler has suggested that the Panama rioting triggered it.

b. If so, then Castro is undoubtedly asking Khrushchev for support in keeping the ball rolling in Panama and exploiting the situation elsewhere.

c. The Soviets, for their part, may be trying to persuade Castro to cool off.

(Cont'd)

d. Peiping, as might be expected, is wasting no time making its stand clear. It is organizing the largest mass demonstrations in Peiping since the Cuban crisis to support Panama's claims.



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NOTES

- A. Peru [redacted] Communist-front organization in Peru is calling a rally [redacted] to protest the events in Panama. [redacted] militant Communist elements will try to direct the crowd against American installations and property.
- B. Syria [redacted] impending military coup. Damascus political observers generally concede that Baathist President Hafiz' days are numbered, but the timing of a coup and the identity of the plotters are not clear.
- [redacted]
- D. India The lull in Hindu-Moslem violence in Calcutta may be only temporary. A 24-hour general strike has been called by Hindu extremists for today.
- E. Honduras Several senior military officers are [redacted] plotting to overthrow the Lopez regime.
- F. Communist China New food shortages have developed in South China as the result of serious drought in most southern provinces in 1963.

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- G. North Korea - South Korea The shoot-down of a  
South Korean fighter yesterday over North Korean  
territory [REDACTED]

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- H. Caribbean "Summit" The meeting, which got under way  
Monday in Kingston, may prove to be a dud. Trinidad's  
Williams has not done his homework. He plans to  
take no initiative, even on the regional economic  
scheme which we had earlier thought he would try to  
press on Cheddi Jagan.

LATE NOTE

Yemen The press reports King Saud has met with  
Nasir and Yemeni President Sallal and quotes informed  
sources as saying as a result of his meeting "the  
problems in Yemen are virtually over." These sources  
seem unduly optimistic. Even if Saud is in a mood  
to settle the problem of Yemen with Nasir he still  
has to square it with Faysal who is actually running  
the country.



DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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